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ECONOMIC COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPE
PARIS

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September 2, 1948

My dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

In our studies of East-West trade and its effect upon our national security we are faced with a situation in which we are called upon to make decisions without positive assurance that all the available facts are at hand. As an illustration, I should like to point out that the Danish-Soviet trade agreement of July 16, 1948 calls for the construction by Denmark of three tankers (one of 13,000 tons and two of 6,000 tons) for the Soviet government. During a recent visit of members of my staff to Rome, they were advised of the pressure being placed upon the Italian delegation presently in Moscow endeavouring to negotiate a trade agreement with the Soviets to influence the Italian government to make available to the Soviets certain Italian made tankers. These two facets are aspects of the same problem; just how many tankers quantitatively are being constructed or requested by the Soviets. Our information here is piecemeal, and I know of no other government agency except the Central Intelligence Agency which might have all of the facts available at the same time. I would like to ask, therefore, that in the studies being continually made by your staff in the field of international economics that we receive timely advice, not only of situations existing at the moment but also of trends as interpreted by your office.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/

W. A. HARRIMAN
U. S. Special Representative
in Europe

Rear Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.